



ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT

IMPACT OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)

IN ZIMBABWE

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DPOs	Disabled Peoples Organisations
DSOs	Disability Service Organisations
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
HR	Human Rights
IEC	Information Education and Communication
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
PWDS	People with Disabilities
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
ZEC	Zimbabwe Elections Commission
ZPP	Zimbabwe Peace Project

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

For purposes for this study the term “disability” refers to a situation in which people with physical, sensory, mental and/or intellectual impairments face physical, attitudinal and institutional barriers to participating in life spheres fully and effectively on an equal basis with others. These barriers are imposed by society leading to exclusionary tendencies for people with disabilities.

Political violence: Is the physical, mental and emotional application of force in order to make an individual to do or not to do something. Violence can also be created through putting in place a host of measures aimed at inflicting pain or restriction on someone. It can be done through restrictive laws and policies.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Violence and conflict during political activities is widespread and they have a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities (PWDs) in a multitude of ways. Through a number of factors, conflict situations also contribute to extreme mental, emotional, and physical harm to individuals with disabilities (acquired through conflict or otherwise), their families and the community at large. These harms and their after-effects can last for year's even decades, causing further stress between and within communities.

This research report represents the importance of protecting PWDs during political activities and outlines a pathway in which Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Government can work together to enable the voice of PWDs to be heard and prevent political violence faced by PWDs. This was a small sample research of 74 respondents to investigate the impact of political violence on PWDs predominantly in Murewa, Mutoko and Mudzi. Using qualitative methods, in-depth interviews were used to gather data from PWDs and key organisations selected. Some interviewees in other areas other than Murewa, Mutoko and Mudzi were interviewed telephonically. The main findings revealed that Political violence which is applied on the general citizenry has the effect of discouraging PWDs from taking an active role in politics. ZANU PF is reported as the main perpetrator of political violence. Its role in unleashing such violence is also supported by the State apparatus such as the Police, State Security Agents and the Army. This creates a highly poisoned political environment in which, like any other citizens, PWDs fear for their lives if they were to take an active role in politics.

PWDs that choose to support the opposition are at risk of political violence such as harassment, sexual assault, physical assault, intimidation, physical and emotional torture, and malicious injury to property, abduction and arson, just like any other citizens. PWDs shy away from participating since they consider themselves as defenceless and highly vulnerable. Although there was no conclusive evidence on political violence directly applied on the majority of PWDs interviewed it was however noted through other data sources that PWD are indiscriminately affected by political violence. Political violence induced disabilities could neither be confirmed nor denied for fear of reprisal. This shows that, the prevalence of disabilities as a result of political violence cannot be ruled out, although there is no conclusive evidence. Disability service organisations are not involved in mitigation of political violence, particularly if perpetrated against PWDs. This is because not many PWDs are involved in political activities. Unintended results of the study indicated that in terms of

PWDs contesting for political office they are barred by poverty, as the majority of them still have to satisfy lower level physiological needs.

Society is generally unwilling to vote for PWDs whom they always look down upon as sick people. Furthermore, PWDs are disenfranchised and thus cannot exercise their right to vote and to be voted for due to a plethora of impediments such as disability unfriendly laws and voting practices. People are using political violence to settle personal disputes, such as jealousy emanating from differences in economic and social status, witchcraft accusations, etc. The study amongst a host of others recommends that ZPP should deliberately mainstream disability in its activities of violence monitoring and review. Victims of political violence should be disaggregated according to disability type, gender, age, geographical area in order to assist policy makers and social planners to come up with disability friendly interventions. This therefore calls for setting up of a disability desk manned by a PWD whose role would be to provide internal disability consultancy to ZPP staff and management. ZPP should mobilise resources and implement programmes towards rehabilitating socially and economically marginalised people who acquired disabilities due to political violence, as well as to embrace a mandate to include disability leaders/Disabled Peoples Organisations as civil society participants in funding, research and peace building initiatives.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Research background

Civil and political rights are every citizen's entitlement. Failure to enjoy such rights fully, makes it difficult for citizenry to access economic, social and cultural rights. This shows that rights and fundamental freedoms depend on each other and denying citizen's enjoyment of one right invariably has domino and ramifying effects on the enjoyment of other rights and fundamental freedoms. The Constitution of Zimbabwe asserts the right of every citizen to vote in any election and to be voted for. The need to be given space for enjoying one's civil and political rights is further buttressed by several international treaties. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) Article 29, for example addresses the design and implementation of an electoral process that is non-discriminatory, while also requiring states to provide voters with disability-related accommodations and other facilitative measures to enable their equal right to vote.

The centrality of participating in political and public life needs no over emphasis. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in terms of both domestic and international law have the right to vote, to contest for political office and exercise anything in line with protecting and promoting their civil and political rights fully and effectively on an equal basis with others. The political complexion of Zimbabwe since 2000 seems to portray a sad story, resulting in instilling fear in general citizenry. The deep-seated fear has caused many people in Zimbabwe to sacrifice their civil and political freedoms on the altar of seeking protection against political violence by some political parties in Zimbabwe. The period 2008 witnessed unprecedented political violence which saw citizens facing retribution or reprisals for supporting a political party of one's choice. Some were killed, maimed, disabled, raped and permanently chased away from their homesteads. The irreparable emotional scars will perpetually bare testimony to the high temperature typifying Zimbabwe's political climate. PWDs as members of the human family are by no means immune to the challenges of Zimbabwe's ragged political terrain. This is particularly so given their vulnerability and inability to run for cover whenever such political violence is unleashed on innocent and defenceless citizens by some political parties. Literature is awash with examples of PWDs who are subjected to political violence such as rape in war situations. Examples include Palestine, Afghanistan, Nigeria and of late Syria just to name a few. A perusal of literature further reveals that women with disabilities are particularly more vulnerable than their male counterparts as they are more prone to sexual assaults than men.

It was thus found expedient to investigate the impact of political violence on PWDs. Political violence which characterised Zimbabwe's political landscape since 2000 set in motion a deeply entrenched culture of political violence which presented a compelling rationale for this research. The overarching objective of the research was to establish the impact of political violence on PWDs.

2.2 Research objectives

The research was premised on the following:

- Undertake field research in sampled areas to investigate the impact of political violence on people with disabilities.
- Undertake consultations with selected communities of people with disabilities, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and political representatives to gather their views on how political violence affects people with disabilities.
- Prepare a detailed report containing strategies and recommendations on how ZPP can report on and intervene to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are protected.

3. Literature Review:

Literature review shows that the plight of PWDs is more pronounced in situations of political violence when compared to persons who are able bodied. They are for example left alone by others who flee political violence. PWDs depend on others in their attempt to run for safety. Those on whom they depend place high priority on their own safety, leaving PWDs vulnerable, unsafe, unprotected and defenceless. It is not surprising that some persons with disabilities particularly those with either severe or profound disabilities may face social ills such as rape and other forms of sexual abuse. Women with visual impairments for instance are particularly prone to unthinkable forms of abuse.

PWDs are too often the forgotten victims of political violence. Challenges created by political violence and other situations of risk are compounded for people with disabilities by physical, communication, and other barriers. They are disproportionately at risk of being neglected, excluded or even abused because of their impairments and traumas. Political conflict especially during periods of elections makes PWDs extremely vulnerable to gross human rights violations.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which Zimbabwe is a signatory, seeks to promote, protect and ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities. The State has an obligation to protect the rights of people with disabilities even during times of conflict. Article 11 of the above convention, notes that countries must take all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. In addition, article 16 notes that people with disabilities have the right to be protected from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender based aspects, within and outside the home. In this regard, the rights of PWDs should be protected during cases of political violence. The Zimbabwean Constitution also has safeguards for the protection of people with disabilities.

The detailed list of documents reviewed is provided in Annex 2, some of the key documents reviewed include: -

- The Zimbabwe Constitution: Section 22 of the Constitution stipulates that the State must recognize the rights of people with disabilities and ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect and Section 53 affirms that allits people are protected from physical or psychological torture and from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD):The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the UNCRPD in December 2006, making it the first human rights treaty to be adopted in the 21st century: Article 11 requires Parties “to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.
- Nairobi Declaration – Inclusive post 2015 development agenda for persons with disabilities in Africa:**Governance and political participation:***20. Post 2015 development agenda to ensure that legal frameworks and policies are in place to prevent discrimination, including denial of legal capacity, and to support access to justice as well as political participation of all persons with disabilities at all decision-making levels.*
- World Institute Disability Report (published August 2014 revised February 2015) - The Involvement of Persons with Disabilities in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building Efforts: Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) as Part of the Solution in the Post- Conflict Arena
- Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2015: Section 3 “Freedom to participate in the Political Process and Section 5 “Persons with Disabilities”

4. Research Methodology

i. Sampling

- The population size was unknown so non-probabilistic sampling using the snow balling technique was relied upon. Statistically a sample of 10 to 30 units is considered to be representative. Accordingly, 61 PWDs and 13 family members were selected and subsequently interviewed.

ii. Research methods: In-depth interviews were used. This method was found very appropriate because:

a.The researchers were able to ask follow up questions in order to get clarification on some hazy issues.

b. The sensitivity of the nature of the research dictated the need for rapport building. Such rapport could only be initiated and strengthened through in-depth interviews because of their interactive nature.

c. Researchers were able to read nonverbal cues and could use such gestures to cross check and draw inferences of inconsistencies between the spoken word and body expressions.

d. One on one interaction between the researcher and interviewee served to build trust making the respondent ready to open up with confidence. In-depth interview empowered the respondent to be the active participant in the process, rather than being a subject. In-depth interviews were also appropriate in that it made the researcher to be the educatee as opposed to being an educator.

e. The sensitivity of the topic necessitated the need for such interviews as they would guarantee the security of both researchers and interviewees. It was particularly so, since the areas in which the research was conducted are predominantly ZANU PF strongholds. Further, it is the political party perceived to be the major perpetrator of violence. Focus group discussions would have seriously compromised security considerations and questionnaire too would have been dangerous if the questions were to be seen by ZANU PF loyalists. Through use of in-depth interviews, researchers were able to analyse the data as they collected it. Therefore, data gathering and analysis took place simultaneously.

5. Research Areas

The rationale for selecting research areas Mashonaland East Province in which Mudzi, Mutoko and Murewa are politically volatile. Towards election, these districts are well known for perpetrating inconceivable political violence. This explains the researcher's decision to focus on the hottest spots in order to get the lived experiences of PWDs who got either directly or indirectly affected by political violence. In order to get comparative data telephone interviews with respondents from other areas such as, Bulawayo, Gokwe, Mt Darwin and Chiweshe, were conducted. In-depth interviews were also conducted with urban residents whose roots are in the rural areas such as Kuwadzana, Epworth, Chitungwiza, Mabvuku and Greater Harare.

Secondary data review: This was also used in order to draw lessons from elsewhere for comparative purposes. Findings from literature review served to enrich the data analysis interpretation and discussion of findings process. Thus, secondary data complimented in-depth interviews.

Triangulation: While in-depth interviews were the predominant method, triangulation was relied upon since no method is 100% fool proof. In-depth interviews shortcomings were compensated for by focus group discussions with respondents in Mutoko and at Murewa growth point drawn from more than 10 wards. There was also triangulation for respondents on the basis of several variables and dimensions such as age, ward, gender, disability type, income level, etc. Senior representatives from Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs), Disability Service Organisations (DSOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) were also interviewed.

6. Strengths and Weakness of the Research

Strengths:

- Research was successfully conducted in politically volatile areas known for political violence. Thus, typically as opposed to atypically data was gathered.
 - The research greatly relied on rapport between interviewer and interviewee.
 - Respondents actively participated as opposed to being subjects
 - Limitations:
 - Not enough time was allocated.
 - Non probabilistic purposive sampling was used. This presents challenges of replicating the study.

Challenges encountered:

- Some respondents did not to open up due to deep seated fear
- Respondents did not want to speak to the researchers without clearance from ZANU PF district party officials. This was particularly so in Mudzi and Murewa.
- It was not possible for the research team to interview local authorities without clearance from the President's Office. In order to get such clearance a 7-day notice should have been given and in the unlikely event of being granted such authority, a team from the Office could be assigned to accompany the researchers as to ensure that the team is not doing anything which is deemed to be a threat to state security. Further difficulties in attempting to get such clearance were compounded by the time limitation of 10 days of field work.

- Some respondents could not be visited due to limited time allocated to the study
- Some places were inaccessible due to bad roads
- Limited group discussions due to the nature of the sensitive topic
- Researchers were subjected to vetting by ZANU PF party officials who insisted on listening in on focus group discussions conducted in Murewa
- In rural areas, ZANU PF leaders restrict the rights to freedom of association and assembly, making it virtually impossible for PWDs to freely express themselves

7. The research sought to:

- investigate the impact of political violence on people with disabilities.
- undertake consultations with selected communities of people with disabilities, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and political representatives to gather their views on how political violence affects people with disabilities.
- prepare a detailed report containing strategies and recommendations on how ZPP can report on and intervene to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are protected.

8. KEY FINDINGS

The research sought to establish how political violence affects PWDs and their families. Varying responses were elicited:

8.1. Political Participation:

- It came out that political violence scares away PWDs from participating in electoral processes, i.e. during and post-election. They strongly felt that they are vulnerable

“Politics is a game of the physically fit, we have no capacity to defend ourselves so why engage in politics” said one of the respondents.

and if such violence would arise they have no capacity to defend themselves and neither can they revenge physically. It can be drawn from this finding that PWDs seemed to have developed deep seated fear and a feeling of resignation from having

anything to do with politics. They believe that it is only for the able bodied.

- Considering that the hallmark of any democratic dispensation is the ability of marginalised and vulnerable groups to participate in electoral processes, Zimbabwe seems to be far from advancing the key tenants of democracy. PWDs will remain on the periphery with respect to participating as voters or contesting for political office. Their fear for political violence is further compounded by the attitudinal barriers to enabling PWDs to contest for political office.

- Society seems to be driven by the medical model which views PWDs as sick and in need of chronic medical interventions. This erroneous belief has resulted in different communities developing unwillingness to vote for PWDs. It is also clear that some PWDs also seem to have internalised society’s negative attitudes resulting in them developing a negative self-concept. Despite this finding there’s a Councillor with a disability in Mutoko. The Councillor was elected on a ZANU PF ticket and does not serve PWDs at all. It seems that disability

“Do you ever think that a sensible person can vote for me as a PWD? Do you see it happening?” said one of the respondents.

is always associated with poverty, helplessness and vulnerability. Those with disabilities who happen to rise on the socio-economic stratum cease to view themselves as disabled. If those with disabilities who occupy the upper social stratum were to play a critical role in uplifting PWDs on the socio-economic ladder, perhaps the status core would change. Unfortunately, PWDs seem to be relegated to the bottom stratum and those who become politically powerful disassociate

themselves from their counter parts with disabilities. A situation in which PWDs remain politically powerless will make it difficult to get PWDs out of their own cocoon and most importantly changing their hard and soft electoral infrastructure. That is making it difficult to address the possible impact of political violence on PWDs and their families.

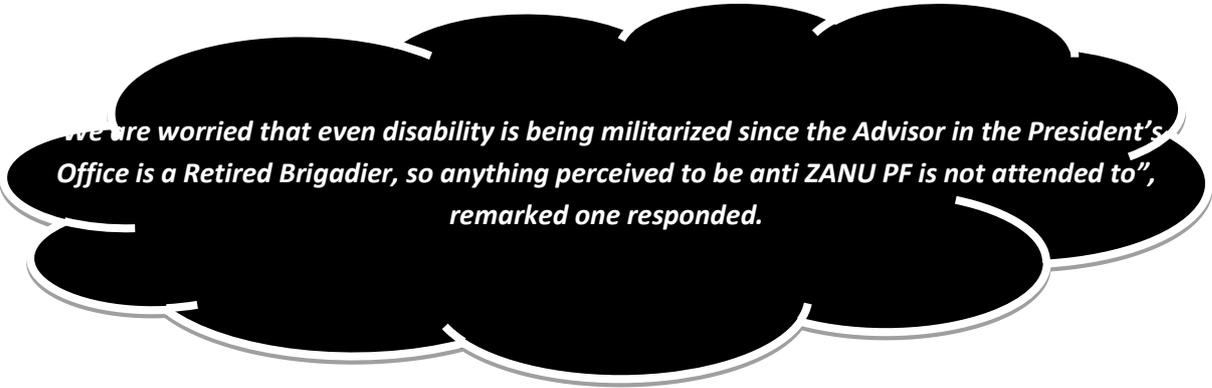
8.2. Political Violence

- Respondents were asked to indicate the perpetrators of political violence and the various forms it normally takes. The majority indicated that the majority who perpetrated violence were ZANU PF youths, while the remainder strongly felt that it is the main political parties who do so. They did not want to identify the actual political parties they were referring to. Despite probing them to identify the perpetrators they remained adamant. This once again serves to confirm fear. It could be detected through interacting with them that although they knew that it was ZANU PF loyalists, they did not want to openly say so. Probably they may have had mixed feelings as they did not know the political views of the interviewers who also were strangers to them. “Those who are tortured or beaten up deserve it because they want to revolt against the majority by not supporting our party” said one respondent. Asked to explain what he meant by our party, he did not freely express himself which party. Perhaps he is either a ZANU PF loyalist or he does not support it. Probably he was doing so to protect himself from ZANU PF since the area of research Mutoko is predominantly a ZANU PF stronghold. What this finding shows is that generally there’s political violence in Mutoko and that people of other political orientation are not tolerated in the area. In order to guarantee one’s safety particularly before, during and after elections one has to either support ZANU PF or purport to support and PWDs are of no exception.

- A form of political violence which came out was that whether able bodied or not, persons of other different political orientation are denied food hand outs and agricultural inputs. What is of concern is that even chiefs who in terms of the Constitution should be apolitical turned to behave as political commissars. When we were interviewing one respondent in Mudzi the Headman who is the ZANU PF Secretary for Security was listening to our interview in order to save as a gatekeeper for this political party. The effect of this was to have undue influence on the

individual interviewee not to say anything perceived not pleasant to the ZANU PF. What this therefore means is that whatever some interviewees said should be taken with guardedness or circumspection. There's need to analyse the response beneath and beyond in order to draw correct conclusions. Upon interviewing one responded in Mudzi, he was not concentrating on the interview process rather he was looking at the headman in order to gauge his reactions to the questions and the whole interview process. On realising that the researchers shifted from the original questions and manufactured new ones which appeared as general baseline survey questions. It was the Headman too who was answering on behalf of the interviewee. This again confirms fear.

- Another form of political violence is labelling of supporters of political parties other than ZANU PF as “vapanduki” which literally means saboteurs. This has the effect of instilling fear of reprisals or retribution for supporting a political party of one's choice. Although the majority of PWDs may not have been direct victims of political violence, the fact itself that some people had their rights violated politically can even scare PWDs to exercise their democratic right to choose and vote for a political party of one's choice.



we are worried that even disability is being militarized since the Advisor in the President's Office is a Retired Brigadier, so anything perceived to be anti ZANU PF is not attended to”, remarked one responded.

8.3. Food Hand-outs

Chiefs, Headmen and other community members (including PWDs) who support other political parties are denied food hand-out's for distribution. This inevitably imposes an obligation on such community leaders to support ZANU PF. This can also send a clear message to other community members to equally support ZANU PF whether disabled or non-disabled. It can also be argued the disabled suffer more if they are sidelined from food aid on the basis of their political leanings.

8.4 Voter Education Venues

- Some PWDs felt that some voter education venues are far away from their homesteads. This imposes a barrier on them to participating in voter education. They felt that this is a very subtle form of political violence. The visually impaired interviewees indicated that no voter material is in an accessible format, such as Braille, they vote in the presence of a police officer and a presiding officer who inspects a completed ballot before it is thrown into the ballot box. To them, this is a form of political violence, since a presiding officer and a police officer both now know whom one has voted for. Moreover, they do not know the political affiliation of the two officers. This puts them at very high risk of retribution and reprisals particularly if they do not support ZANU PF. They raised this issue with the special advisor on disability affairs in the President Office but nothing was

“At voter education meetings, there are no sign language interpreters, even at polling stations no such interpreters are available, we are denied our right as citizens of Zimbabwe”, said one hearing impaired woman speaking through an interpreter.

done to address this matter.

- Respondents strongly felt that excluding them from political and electoral processes is a form of violence against them.

8.5 Sexual Abuse and other forms of abuse

- Sexual abuse and rape are also used as a form of political violence particularly against women, disabled or non-disabled. ***A case in point took place in Mberengwa where a 20-year-old woman who is a wheelchair user, was raped by ZANU PF youths as a way of paying for the wrongs of her parents. Which wrongs were supporting the opposition? The disabled woman was helplessly and***

defencelessly raped by ZANU PF youths who took turns in full view of the parents who equally could do nothing to defend their daughter. The parents reported the matter to the police as a way of seeking justice, unfortunately nothing happened.

This shows that the nature of our police force has compromised the justice delivery system of our country, thereby making political violence against fellow citizens by ZANU PF supporters non-punishable. This presents an uneven political terrain on which vulnerable groups such as PWDs find difficult to navigate.

- Some persons with disabilities also indicated their unwillingness to participate in political and electoral processes because they were being denigrated, despised or scorned on grounds of disability. Words such as chirema, bofu, chibibi are often used to discourage voters from voting for such people as they are portrayed as having no capacity to lead. To PWDs this is an undocumented worst form of political violence.

8.6 Acquired disabilities due to political violence

- PWDs were asked to indicate individuals who had acquired some disabilities due to political violence and the majority could neither confirm nor deny. This clearly shows the high prevalence of political violence although the respondents could not openly say so due to fear of reprisals by ZANU PF supporters and state apparatus. It is possible that some interviewees may have acquired disabilities as a result of political violence but could not openly say so for fear of reprisals. This above statement in quotes clearly shows lack of freedom of expression. This buttresses the inferences made earlier in the discussion that political violence is deep seated in the minds of most respondents and hence revealing anything perceived to be anti ZANU PF is unthinkable. People might face beatings, rape, being denied food, death and many imponderables.

“I’m not saying no individual acquired disabilities due to political violence and neither am I saying there are individuals who acquired disabilities due to political violence. What I am actually saying is that I don’t know, but it is possible that some have acquired it”.

8.7 Vulnerability levels to political violence: Among men, women and children with disabilities

- The study sought to establish which group is most vulnerable. From the responses given, indication was that women and children are at the highest risk of political violence. Explaining the response, it came out that women are powerless due to their biological make up as compared to men, they are at a risk of being raped, women can easily get beaten and chances of fighting back are limited. In situations of torture women can make confessions more easily when compared to men. Women have a limited capacity to endure pain and hardships when compared to men. These responses unfortunately are very arguable and should be taken with caution.

- Children's vulnerability stems from the fact that they are at a risk of being raped, they are easily amenable in situations of torture to extract some information. Children are defenceless and cannot fight back. Children can be exploited and can easily get desensitized about political violence resulting in them socialised into a culture of violence. This has a negative impact of having violent people when the children get into adulthood. Such a situation will obviously have profound ramifications and long lasting domino effects. On children, political violence is disabling emotionally and can leave permanent psychological scars.

- On men, political violence is even more devastating. Men with disabilities develop some secondary disabilities, thereby worsening their situation. They are desensitized about political violence and exposing them to violence in turn might make them agents of political violence. PWDs generally face rejection by society and applying political violence on them further distances them from society and thus develops a sense of vengeance which manifests itself through failure to give love to their families and relatives. Anger, high temperament and failure to perform social and economic roles effectively. Thus, political violence breeds other forms of violence which are endurance to society. Children, who grow in families headed by men who are exposed to political violence in turn view society as unkind and would want to revenge someday. PWDs are of no exception. Some men are at a risk of losing their homes as they get destroyed as some form of retribution. Some have their homes burnt while others are given death threats resulting in them fleeing their homes.

“Despite being visually impaired ZANU PF youths came to my homestead at night, they threatened to beat me up unless I told them of the whereabouts of my son whom they accused of supporting the opposition. I told them I did not know where he had gone and they pushed and shoved me violently threatening to kill me if ever I continue refusing to tell them of his whereabouts. My son actually spent one week in hiding. Such is the situation in our country; ZANU PF youths do not have regard for old age and disability. I don’t like violence, we saw enough during the liberation struggle. We fear being on what people call the wrong side, our life is more important than anything else. We with disabilities and our families have no protection and we suffer greatly the impact of conflict in our communities”,. said a visually impaired woman in Gutu, Masvingo speaking through a mobile phone

“There are many deserted homes here, we do not know whether the men who had those households were killed, maimed, abducted or made to flee. We woke up one day and just found a number of homes in this community empty. People are even stealing the windows, door frames and livestock. What is painful is that we don’t even know whether the children are going to school where they went. Such is the situation here. Some old people were left on their own as the economically productive family members left”, said one visibly distraught grandmother in Mudzi.

Memories of mysterious disappearance of some individuals were however sighted by some respondents as contributing to their reluctance to discuss anything relating to politics and elections, particularly if such discussions have something to do with MDC and ZANU PF. “Leave me please, despite being disabled I’m now old don’t fast track my death, go away if you want to discuss politics with me”, said one 75-year-old woman with a visual impairment.

8.8 Local Structures

Respondents were asked what local structures exist for monitoring and reporting political violence at community level. The majority indicated that other than the police and chiefs there are none. They further pointed out that the police and the institution of the chief are partisan and in the event, that some community members are being victimised by ZANU PF supporters, nothing happens. They felt that making reports is a sheer waste of time. Several people upon whom political violence is unleashed would rather choose to keep quiet. This is a violation of the country’s Constitution, which stipulates that members of the police force and chiefs should discharge their duties in a non-partisan and apolitical manner. While Zimbabwe has one of the most progressive constitutions in Southern Africa, the ruling party (ZANU PF) has turned it into a window dressing piece of paper by not implementing those progressive provisions. Although the ZPP has some monitors at

community level, they however remain largely unknown to most community members for fear of being victimized or killed. Community members thereby cannot report any violence. Moreover, these monitors operate at an informal level and cannot be part of the community structure. What is clear is that victims of political violence, disabled or non-disabled remain exposed to the vagaries of political violence with no protection at all. In fact, the structures at community levels are instead perpetrating political violence. These include committees for War Veterans, youths and other ZANU PF supporters. The Chiefs as traditional leaders stand aloof to the victims of political violence. Instead those who are victimized for supporting the opposition are required by Chiefs to pay fines in the form of livestock and money, vowing never to support the opposition again. In the campaign period, there is state sponsored political violence where some bases for ZANU PF youths are set up at village level. In order to maximize violence, youths from district A might be deployed in district B where they are unknown, so that they can perpetrate political violence without fear of being identified. Usually when this happens, the Chiefs and Police feign blindness and deafness when issues of political violence are reported to them.

8.9 Role of ZEC in managing political violence at community level

The research investigated whether ZEC plays any meaningful role in managing political violence at community level and it came out that it is not visible at all and neither does it purport to manage political violence at community levels. The apolitical nature of ZEC can therefore be subjected to litmus test. Indications seem to be that it has failed to pass such litmus test. ZEC therefore does not at all get involved in managing political violence, especially if such violence is being perpetrated by ZANU PF. *“Don’t you know that ZEC is an extension or organ of ZANU PF signed one woman with hearing impairment in Mutoko.*

8.10 Mitigation from DPOs, DSOs, Government and CSOs

It was the intention of the research to establish what services PWDs and community members receive to mitigate the effects of political violence from government, Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs), Disability Service Organisations (DSOs) and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). It was found out that no such services are received particularly from Government. The respondents pointed out that services are only received from CSOs and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) like churches. This shows how the ZANU PF government deliberately perpetrates violence to those whom it perceives to be in support of the descending voices. While the Constitution, the Electoral Act and speeches by politicians portray the anti-

violence stance, the truth of the matter on the ground is that political violence continuously raised its ghastly and ugly head. There is no political will to promote peace and non-violent electoral conduct by government. Whilst CSOs provided services to those affected by violence; they are sometimes barred by ZANU PF youths from getting into those communities, leaving some people who are victimized to die. This entrenches a culture of fear and to galvanize oneself against such fear the appropriate measure is to support ZANU PF, whether disabled or non-disabled. ***“I may not mention the civic organisations by name but let me state that all organisations with a welfare mandate for communities, like the ALFA Ministries here in Gokwe South supports victims of political violence. One man in his 80’s is now a wheelchair user as a result of political violence. He was assisted by the Church with a wheelchair and the church continues to preach unity and abstinence from all forms of violence” said a physically disabled man from Gokwe who was interviewed telephonically.***

8.11 Participation of PWDs in political activities

Article 29 of the UNCRPD states that PWDs have a right to participate in political public life on an equal basis with others. The study therefore sought to establish the level of participation of PWDs. Indications were that PWDs hardly participate in political processes due to a plethora of challenges such as physical barriers, attitudinal and institutional barriers.

- **Physical barriers:** Some of the voter education venues are not accessible to PWDs especially wheelchair users and other physically challenged people due to distance. Furthermore, some of the polling stations are also inaccessible because of factors such as narrow doorways which cannot accommodate wheelchairs.

- **Attitudinal barriers:** Due to wrong attitudes that PWDs do not engage in political activities, there are no sign language interpreters when voter education is conducted, and no sign language interpreters at polling stations during voting. There are no IEC materials in Braille, large print and sign language, this makes it difficult for PWDs to take part in voter education. Family members too due to over protection do not want to allow family members with disabilities to take part in political activities either as voters or contestants for political office. PWDs capacity to gain political capital is curtailed by poverty as they have no resources for attracting prospective voters. Due to negative attitudes also rivals easily de-campaign political contestants with disabilities on grounds of disability. Society can easily accept such negative messages because of deep seated

attitudes which associate disability with inability. Some PWDs view themselves as vulnerable and in need of assistance. They thus see engaging in political activities as being socially deviant or going against societal norms.

- **Institutional barriers**: Electoral laws never envisaged a situation in which PWDs can fully and effectively participate in political activities on an equal basis with others. The Constitution of Zimbabwe for instance is silent on civil and political rights for PWDs. The Disabled Persons Act (DPA) of 1992 (amended 1996) is also characterised by deafening silence on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of PWDs. While the Electoral Act provided room for PWDs to participate in elections, it does not make meaningful provisions that allow PWDs such as the visually impaired to vote in secrecy and independently. There are no provisions for ballot papers in Braille, when the visually impaired vote they do so in the presence of a presiding officer and a police officer, whose political affiliation is not known. For fear of facing reprisals after voting for the opposition some PWDs would rather choose to totally disassociate themselves from participating in political activities. Zimbabwe is devoid of laws and policies that deliberately promote and protect the rights of PWDs to fully participate in politics.

8.12 Protection of PWDs from political violence

PWDs interviewed were asked how they thought they could be protected against political violence and different views came out.

- Staying away from political activities
- Support ZANU PF

Once again, the responses reflect fear and general apathy by PWDs to participate in politics. It seems that PWDs did not give practical recommendations on what government should do to protect them against political violence. Probably this was due to fear of the unknown. They perceived that advising government on protecting PWDs against political violence was tantamount to criticising the government of causing political violence. Since to them there is no separation between government and ZANU PF as the ruling party.

9. FINDINGS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Assessment of political violent levels in areas of operation for organisations: The study undertook to establish the level of political violence in organisations' areas of operation and how such violence either causes disability or affects PWDs. Indications seem to be that political

violence has caused various disabilities. It also came out that the main disabilities resulting from such violence are physical that is broken limbs, amputations and broken spinal cord. It was also revealed that some due to serious psychological trauma of perpetrating political violence had developed some mental disabilities and others who were victims of political violence had equally developed mental disabilities. The findings also indicate that quite a number had developed some hearing impairments. What is even disturbing is that such people do not get early interventions or mitigatory measures, such that conditions which if managed properly could normalise the functioning of affected individuals end up developing into serious disabilities. Organisations were asked whether they had disaggregated data in terms of disability type, age and geographical area and they responded that such data was not available, although they knew that in their work they came across situations of disability. In the absence of accurate disaggregated data, it is difficult to authoritatively declare the level of prevalence of disability due to political violence. What is clear however is some individuals may be acquiring disabilities due to political violence either as perpetrators or as victims upon whom such violence is unleashed.

9.1 The nature of political violence

The various forms of political violence were investigated. Organisations respondents revealed that political violence takes various forms which include the following:

- Rape of women perceived as loyal to opposition
- Malicious injury to property against those perceived as supporters of the opposition
- Arson, forced evictions, torture, murder, being forced to either kill or have sex with one's relative, abductions, payments of livestock to chiefs as fines and being denied food hand-outs.

The perpetrators are in most cases ZANU PF youths and war veterans. The organisations interviewed indicated that they did not make any deliberate effort to establish how PWDs are particularly affected as it may be difficult whether or not a person got a disability as a result of political violence. They said that victims of such political violence who acquired a disability are warned not to reveal that to any organisations. It is possible therefore that among various PWDs organisations come across in their areas of operations, some may have acquired disabilities due to political violence.

9.2 Levels of political violence

Between women and men with disabilities the findings indicated that women are more prone to political violence, primarily because of the nature of women's biological make up, women can be easily raped as compared to men. Women cannot runaway leaving children behind, among many other factors. However, no specific cases of political violence perpetrated against either men or women with disabilities were reported. It was therefore difficult to conclusively declare the level of political violence being perpetrated against men and women with disabilities. Perhaps lack of conclusive evidence on political violence against men and women with disabilities only serves to show very low participation of PWDs in political activities. The low participation of PWDs in political activities is corroborated by the Human Rights Report 2015 which also indicates the low participation of PWDs in politics. *In terms of this report, 20 per cent of eligible voters with disabilities had the identity documents required to vote in 2013. On Election Day in 2013, voting stations in many rural areas were in places inaccessible to PWDs. The law permits blind persons to bring an individual to assist in marking their ballots, and therefore compromises ballot secrecy.* It must be pointed out that political violence faced by PWDs is difficult to investigate in Zimbabwe. This position is supported by the 2015 Human Rights Report which reveals that *a number of domestic and international human rights groups operated in the country, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. Such groups were subject to government restrictions, interference, monitoring, confiscation of materials and documentation, and other forms of harassment. Major domestic NGOs included the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, Zimbabwe Election Support Network, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, Zimbabwe Peace Project, ZimRights, National Constitutional Assembly, Students Solidarity Trust, and Women and Men of Zimbabwe Arise.*

9.3 Protection of Citizens against political violence

While this is the responsibility of the State, CSOs equally must play a role in protecting citizenry including PWDs against political violence. The protective measures which CSOs take and the effectiveness of those measures were investigated. It was revealed that some CSOs such as ZPP had monitors on the grounds who warn field staff about the level of political violence, where to go and where not to go. They also have places where their staff could hide and also they use informants from within the communities who report to the head offices telephonically. Members of the opposition are asked to hide their loyalty by attending all ZANU PF political rallies, donating to ZANU PF functions while they reserve the right to vote for whom they want to on elections day. In terms of specific measures targeted at PWDs almost all respondents did

not have such due to either law or non-involvement of PWDs in political activities. It seems that the law and non-involvement of PWDs in politics continues to be recurrent in all responses by individuals and organisations. In terms of detecting the incidence of political violence by domestic and international NGOs no deliberate effort is paid to assessing how PWDs are particularly affected by political violence. This shows that although they may be involved in political violence it is difficult to tell whether or not such violence occurs due to non-commitment by CSOs towards measuring or assessing such violence. Perhaps the non-availability of disability specific data in the work of these organisations is an indication of lack of knowledge on disability inclusion at all levels of the programme life cycle. Such as, feasibility study, programme design, implementation, right through to monitoring and evaluation. It must also be pointed out that the non-involvement or low participation of PWDs in political activities shows that PWDs are amongst the poorest of the poor. As such, participation is a higher priority in terms of Maslow's hierarchy of needs who postulates that persons cannot think of satisfying higher level needs before satisfying lower level needs. This probably explains why PWDs cannot think of engaging in political activities without food, shelter, security and good health.

9.4 Factors that promote barriers to participation of PWDs in politics

Many organisations interviewed revealed that:

- There's need to create laws that allow PWDs to fully and effectively enjoy their civil and political rights on an equal basis with others.
- Self-representation of PWDs at national, provincial, district and ward level that is, in all key decision making to ensure that no decision is made without the input of PWDs.
- Having a disability desk in every government agency, parastatal and commission. This fosters a disability inclusive society at all levels.
- Creating disability friendly electoral infrastructure, therefore accessible polling stations including PWDs in elections management and having a disability desk within ZEC.
- Creating community structures for peace building, reporting and monitoring political violence against members whether disabled or non-disabled. These structures should be legislated as part of the country's national and local governance structures. These structures must be inclusive in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, social class and religion. The ability to promote peace and punish those who perpetrate political violence should be regarded as one of the key performance indicators of the Police, Headmen and Chiefs. Furthermore, there should be mechanisms of punishing those who disregard the work of these structures.

- Communications, therefore putting voter education material in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and large print
- Improving the social economic position of PWDs through income generating projects before encouraging them to participate in politics. This is very important, having a sustainable livelihood that builds confidence and encourages an individual to participate in politics.

9.5 Barriers to PWDs participation

According to the respondents are:

- Low self-esteem by PWDs
- Non-availability of IEC in accessible formats
- Fear
- Electoral laws that do not allow PWDs to enjoy the secrecy of their ballot
- Mobility challenges
- Inaccessible polling stations
- Negative community attitudes against PWDs participation in politics

9.6 Minimising political violence

Different responses were elicited:

- Having a fully capacitated National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
- Having a police station at village level
- Having a multi sectorial peace building committee at ward, district, provincial and national levels.
- Having broad based participation of different members in peace building committees, i.e. church, women, and youth. In this peace building committee's different political parties must also be represented. Government must have accelerated and disseminated peace building information through a diversified media mix such as electronic, print and social media. Putting in place a reward mechanism for those who excel in championing peace building.
- Exchange visits between and among communities in order to adopt and adapt best peace building practices.
- Imposing heavy penalties on anyone who perpetrates violence.
- Having income generating projects at community levels which are owned by multi-sectoral groups. This idea can also be applied in sport made up of players from different political parties. Among others.

10. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

10.1 Political Participation:

- PWDs find it difficult to vote because of too many inhibiting factors such as
 - Inaccessible infrastructure
 - Disability unfriendly laws and voting practices
- In terms of PWDs contesting for political office they are barred by poverty as the majority of them still must satisfy lower level physiological needs such as food, shelter, social security and good health.
- Society is generally unwilling to vote for PWDs whom they always look down upon as sick people.
- PWDs have deep seated fear resulting in their unwillingness to actively participate in politics

10.2 Political Violence:

- ZANU PF and the State are cited as the main perpetrators of political violence. ZANU PF directly or indirectly helps in fertilizing the breeding ground for political violence in Zimbabwe's electoral process that is meant to usher in and consolidate democracy. In the absence of democracy, respect for human rights and good governance violence thrives. Therefore, political violence scares away PWDs from participating in political activities.
- Political violence takes varying forms such as:
 - Denial of food handouts to opposition supporters
 - General harassments, sexual assault, physical assault, intimidation, physical and emotional torture, malicious injury to property, abduction and arson.
- Political violence induced disabilities could neither be confirmed nor denied for fear of reprisal. This shows prevalence of acquired disabilities which however could not be revealed openly for fear of retribution by ZANU PF.
- PWDs revealed that the best way of protecting themselves against political violence was by supporting or purporting to support ZANU PF or completely staying away from politics. This shows that engaging in politics in Zimbabwe, particularly if one has a disability and supports the opposition is like navigating a mine field.

10.3 How political violence affects men, women and children with disabilities

- Women are more easily sexually abused due to their biological make up as compared to men, they are at a risk of being raped, women can easily get beaten and chances of fighting back are limited. These responses unfortunately are very arguable and should be taken with caution.

- Risk exposure of children is higher due to being defenceless, ease of making confessions, among others. In children, political violence is disabling emotionally and can leave permanent psychological scars.
- Among men with disabilities political violence is self-perpetuating as those exposed to it get desensitised and would want to revenge; apart from offloading it on innocent people, such as spouse, relatives and children.

10.4 Local Structures

- Local structures for conflict resolution at community level such as Headman, the Chiefs and the Police have instead become agents of political violence, leaving communities and in particular PWDs highly vulnerable. ZEC as the country's sole statutory election management body is not visible at community levels in terms of peace building and resolving politically related conflict. In any case ZEC has stood aloof to political violence particularly if perpetrated by ZANU PF.
- Disability service organisations are not involved in mitigation of political violence, particularly if perpetrated against PWDs. This is because not many PWDs are involved in political activities, no DSO or DPO has as its main mandate as the management of political violence perpetrated against PWDs. What became evident is that other CSOS such as FBOs and the Church provide food hand-outs, shelter and clothing to victims of political violence. These organisations also promote peace at the lower levels of society, such as communities.
- Participation of PWDs in political activities: Little or no participation of PWDs in political activities by PWDs featured prominently. This is attributed to physical, attitudinal and institutional barriers.

11. CONCLUSIONS:

Intended results:

11.1 Political Participation

- With respect to participating in political activities women, due to their biological makeup are at a risk of being raped and women can easily get beaten and chances of fighting back are limited.
- Supporting the opposition is considered a crime and to protect oneself from such accusations people, disabled or non-disabled purport to support the ruling partner. Making it difficult to detect whether the support is genuine or dramatized.

11.2 Political Violence

- Political violence which is applied on the general citizenry has the effect of discouraging PWDs from taking an active role in politics. PWDs shy away from participating in politics since they consider themselves as defenceless and highly vulnerable. There's no conclusive evidence on political violence directly applied on the majority of PWDs interviewed.
- ZANU PF which currently is the ruling party features prominently as the main perpetrator of political violence. Its role in unleashing such violence is also supported by the State apparatus such as the Police, State Security Agents and the Army. This creates a highly poisoned political environment in which like any other citizens, PWDs fear for their lives if they were to take an active role in politics.
- Political parties themselves have failed to impose discipline on their own members. While government officials and leaders of political parties have made, public statements condemning political violence, public reprimands of their own party members, let alone more serious disciplinary actions within the parties, have been very rare.
- In children, political violence is disabling emotionally and can leave permanent psychological scars.
- Political violence has the effect of desensitising victim's particularly men to the extent of making it self-perpetuating as they seek revenge in future.

- PWDs are at risk of political violence such as harassments, sexual assault, physical assault, intimidation, physical and emotional torture, malicious injury to property, abduction and arson, just like any other citizens.
- Political violence induced disabilities could neither be confirmed nor denied for fear of reprisal. This shows the prevalence of disabilities as a result of political violence cannot be ruled out, although there is no conclusive evidence.

11.3 Local Structures

- Community structures whose other roles should be creating and managing peace at lowest possible levels have instead been invaded by ZANU PF and they thus discharge their duties in a partisan manner. This leaves vulnerable groups such as PWDs more vulnerable.
- Disability Service Organisations are not involved in mitigation of political violence, particularly if perpetrated against PWDs. This is because not many PWDs are involved in political activities.
- Denial of food hand-outs' to opposition supporters if suspected of supporting the opposition.

Untended results:

- i) In terms of PWDs contesting for political office they are barred by poverty as most them still have to satisfy lower level physiological needs first.
- ii) Society is generally unwilling to vote for PWDs whom they always look down upon as sick people.
- iii) PWDs are disenfranchised and thus cannot exercise their right to vote and to be voted for due to a plethora of impediments such as disability unfriendly laws and voting practices.
- iv) People are using political violence to settle personal disputes, such as jealousy emanating from differences in economic and social status, witchcraft accusations, etc.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP)

- There is need by ZPP to roll out a nationwide research on the impact of political violence on PWDs. The one conducted in a very small area barely portrays the global picture of political violence insofar as it impacts on PWDs in Zimbabwe.
- ZPP and other human rights defenders should introduce the programme on promoting and protecting the rights of citizens to freely participate in political activities without fear, paying attention on PWDs. Such a programme should inter-alia mount tenacious advocacy to ensure peace in management of elections. This can be the only sustainable way in holding government to account for any acts of political violence perpetrated against citizens.
- ZPP should deliberately mainstream disability in its activities of violence monitoring and review. Victims of political violence should be disaggregated according to disability type, gender, age, geographical area in order to assist policy makers and social planners to come up with disability friendly interventions. This therefore calls for setting up of a disability desk manned by a PWD whose role would be to provide internal disability consultancy to ZPP staff and management.
- ZPP to lead the roll out a capacity building programme to sensitize human rights defenders and election authorities on the rights of PWDs, particularly their civil and political rights (including accessible polling stations) and ways of ensuring that those rights are fully and effectively enjoyed by PWDs on an equal basis with others.
- ZPP should mobilise resources and implement programmes towards rehabilitating socially and economically marginalised people who acquired disabilities due to political violence.

12.2 Government

- Government, Electoral Commission and the Police must take serious steps now to bolster the confidence of PWDs in the electoral system and thereby prevent them from any form of political violence in the upcoming 2018 election and post-election period.

- There is need for government to setup a robust and inclusive dispute settlement mechanism at community levels, whose effectiveness is regularly reviewed by the community members. Such structures should be empowered to determine penalties for perpetrators of political violence and taking other appropriate punitive measures without referring to the formal court systems. Thus, government can adopt and adapt the informal community court systems used in Rwanda (the Gachacha). The success of this approach however depends on the re-orientation of Chiefs and other traditional leaders to modern and democratic justice delivery principles.

12.3 DPOs, DSOs and CSOs

- DPOs and DSOs in collaboration with ZPP should educate through diverse strategies PWDs about the importance of exercising their civil and political rights. Exercising ones right to vote and to be voted for can unlock opportunities for better enjoying one's other rights, such as economic, social and cultural.
- PWDs must be represented on the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission in order to foster a society which fully embraces the rights of PWDs including their right to vote and to be voted for.

12.4 Funding Partners

- ZPP, donor agencies and government should collectively ensure that poverty among PWDs is alleviated so that they can find the logic of exercising their civil and political rights. This is because most PWDs regard their civil and political rights as less important since they are preoccupied with satisfying their lower level physiological needs, such as food, shelter, etc

12. ANNEXES

Case Studies: Annex 1

i. We were very unfortunate during the run up to elections 2013. My 65-year-old mother was made disabled during that period. My mother was accused of supporting the opposition and received visitors at her homestead where she stayed with her young grandson. The visitors were youths she had not seen before and they were carrying knobkerries (mupini we demo kanabadza). My mother welcomed them, as she was a well-known chimbwido during the liberation struggle. They asked her the whereabouts of her family and she explained. They informed her why the visit “we have come to resolve an issue of your support to MDC”, they shouted. She was told to lie down and they began beating her using the knobkerries. A report was made; however, no action was taken. It took her more than 6 months to walk again, however using crutches. It was later discovered that a neighbor had spread rumors due to jealousy because of the standard of living of our family. These are incidents not only faced by our family, but other community members who chose to support a different political party. We heard lots of incidents, it’s like dealing with a monster and we not equipped enough. Need a resolution to start afresh. 29-year-old male with a physical disability, Mutoko Centre.

ii. I attend all ZANU PF meetings in my community. I am a party card holder. I have tried on several occasions to compete for the Youth Secretary position to no avail. Those that vote for me are my 3 disabled colleagues. The so called able bodied look down upon us, when I compete they mock and make jokes “chirema tochimiriria icho hachigone kuzoita basa”. They use words which are derogatory that lower our self-esteem. We are interested in politics but the able bodied won’t give us an opportunity. I still go to party meetings but don’t participate. (32-year-old female with a physical disability).

List of references: Annex 2

- i. UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- ii. The Zimbabwe Constitution
- iii. Zimbabwe Electoral Act
- iv. Zimbabwe Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy 2013 Annual Report
- v. Disabled Persons Act (As amended)
- vi. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- vii. World Institute Disability Report (published August 2014 revised February 2015) - The Involvement of Persons with Disabilities in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building Efforts: Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) as Part of the Solution in the Post-Conflict Arena
- viii. Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2015: Section 3 “Freedom to participate in the Political Process and Section 5 “Persons with Disabilities”
- ix. Nairobi Declaration – Inclusive post 2015 development agenda for persons with disabilities in Africa: **Governance and political participation**
20. Post 2015 development agenda to ensure that legal frameworks and policies are in place to prevent discrimination, including denial of legal capacity, and to support access to justice as well as political participation of all persons with disabilities at all decision-making levels.
Peaceful and non-violent societies: *22. Post 2015 development agenda to ensure that steps are taken to eliminate violence, abuse, exploitation and torture against persons with disabilities, with particular attention to women and children with disabilities*
- x. National Peace Accord, South Africa: Published 2002
- xi. Peace, Conflict and Development in African: Education for peace in Africa Programme
- xii. Nairobi Declaration: Inclusive Post 2015 Development Agenda for Persons with Disabilities
- xiii. International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
- xiv. The African Charter on Democracy, elections and Governance: The role of National Human Rights Institutions
- xv. Human Rights Report (Zimbabwe 2015): Section 3 : Freedom to participated in the Political Process and Section 5 “Persons with Disabilities”.
- xvi. The forgotten tribe; People with disabilities in Zimbabwe by Tsitsi Choruma January 2007, by Progressio Zimbabwe in collaboration with NASCOH (the Zimbabwe National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped)

List of key Informants: Annex 3

Important to note names of individuals have been withheld as Respondents requested that their names not be published.

GEORGRAPHICAL AREA	NUMER OF RESPONDENTS (74)
Harare	15
Bulawayo	4
Marondera	2
Mberengwa	1
Mudzi	3
Mutoko	11 (held 2 focus group discussions)
Murewa	38 (held 3 focus group discussions)

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS
Disabled Women Support Organization
Federation of Disabled People in Zimbabwe
National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped
Disabled Persons Support Organisation
Disability, HIV and AIDS Trust
Deaf Zimbabwe Trust
Jairos Jiri
Hope, Faith & Vision for Life Trust
SDA Church
Disability Arise (women with disabilities)
Precious Stones (women with disabilities)

Data Collection Tools: Annex 4

Interview Guide for PWDs and their family members

1. Disability Type(s)
2. Gender
3. Age
4. As PWDs what do you think political violence has on you and your family?
5. In specific terms what are the effects of political on you and your family?
 - a) Socially
 - b) Politically
 - c) Economically
6. Who are the perpetrators of political violence against PWDs?
7. What form does political violence against PWDs take?
8. Do you know anyone who acquired disability as a result of political violence? If yes, what are the incidents that lead those people to acquire disability?
9. Between men, women and children with disability which group is more prone to political violence? Please explain giving supporting evidence for the position you take.
10. What local structures for monitoring and reporting political violence are there? If they are there, what role do PWDs play in these?
11. What role does ZEC play in ensuring that as PWDs you are protected against political violence?
12. After encountering political violence what services do you receive to mitigate the effects of political violence from government, DPOs, DSOs and other CSOs?
13. What is your view on the level of participation by PWDs in political activities? Please explain your answer.
14. What do you think should be done to protect PWDs against any form of political violence by different stakeholders such as government?
15. As a family with a member with disability how are you particularly affected with violence and what protective measures do you think should be taken?
16. How does political violence impact on a PWD in your family?

Interview Guide for DPOs, DSOs and Other Civil Society Organizations

1. Organizational Type
2. What is the level of political violence in your area of operation and how does it either cause disability of affects PWDs? Please explain your answer in detail.
3. According to your experience what form does political violence take and who are the perpetrators?
4. Who are most prone to political violence between men and women with disabilities? Please explain giving evidence.
5. Are there any individuals you know who acquired disabilities due to political violence?
6. What measures does your organization take to protect local citizens in general and PWDs in particular against political violence and how effective are those measures? Please explain in detail.
7. Are there any local structures designed to monitor and report political violence? If yes, are PWDs represented in those structures?
8. What are the social, political and economic effects of such violence against PWDs and their families?
9. What services do disabled and non disabled citizens who are affected by political violence get? And how effective are they?

10. What peace building initiatives are taken at local level to minimize or prevent political violence on the citizenry?

11. From your assessment what factors promote the participation of PWDs in political activities? And generally what barriers to participating in political activities do PWDs face?

12 What are your suggestions on what should be done to minimize or prevent political violence in whatever form?